



# MFC News

*Caring for the Trees and Forests of Mississippi Since 1926*

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## Happy St. Patrick's Day



March 2014



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March 17th



The Mississippi Forestry Commission provides equal employment opportunities and services to all individuals regardless of disability, race, age, religion, color, gender, national origin, or political affiliation.

This institution is an equal opportunity provider

## Fun Facts For St. Patrick's Day

- ♣ *Over 94 million people plan to wear green on St. Patrick's Day*
- ♣ *1% of the world annual consumption of beer is consumed on St. Patrick's Day. It is estimated that by 2013 that 1% will be 528 million gallons, or 4.2 billion pints of beer.*
- ♣ *Nine American cities share the name of Ireland's capital. The largest Dublin in American is Dublin, California with a population of 41,840.*
- ♣ *Leprechauns are always male.*
- ♣ *Since 1962, the Chicago River has been dyed green in honor of the day.*



### Newsletter Deadlines

All submissions are welcome. E-mail articles and photos to [lharris@mfc.state.ms.us](mailto:lharris@mfc.state.ms.us).

## Meaning of St. Patrick Day

St. Patrick's Day is celebrated on March 17, the saint's religious feast day and the anniversary of his death in the fifth century. The Irish have observed this day as a religious holiday for over 1,000 years. On St. Patrick's Day, which falls during the Christian season of Lent, Irish families would traditionally attend church in the morning and celebrate in the afternoon. Lenten prohibitions against the consumption of meat were waived and people would dance, drink and feast—on the traditional meal of Irish bacon and cabbage.

Saint Patrick, who lived during the fifth century, is the patron saint and national apostle of Ireland. Born in Roman Britain, he was kidnapped and brought to Ireland as a slave at the age of 16. He later escaped, but returned to Ireland and was credited with bringing Christianity to its people. In the centuries following Patrick's death (believed to have been on March 17, 461), the mythology surrounding his life became ever more ingrained in the Irish culture: Perhaps the most well known legend is that he explained the Holy Trinity (Father, Son and Holy Spirit) using the

three leaves of a native Irish clover, the shamrock.

Since around the ninth or 10th century, people in Ireland have been observing the Roman Catholic feast day of St. Patrick on March 17. Interestingly, however, the first parade held to honor St. Patrick's Day took place not in Ireland but in the United States. On March 17, 1762, Irish soldiers serving in the English military marched through New York City. Along with their music, the parade helped the soldiers reconnect with their Irish roots, as well as with fellow Irishmen serving in the English army.

Over the next 35 years, Irish patriotism among American immigrants flourished, prompting the rise of so-called "Irish Aid" societies like the Friendly Sons of Saint Patrick and the Hibernian Society. Each group would hold annual parades featuring bagpipes (which actually first became popular in the Scottish and British armies) and drums.

In 1848, several New York Irish Aid societies decided to unite their parades to form one official New York City St. Patrick's Day Parade. Today, that parade is the world's oldest civilian

parade and the largest in the United States, with over 150,000 participants. Each year, nearly 3 million people line the 1.5-mile parade route to watch the procession, which takes more than five hours. Boston, Chicago, Philadelphia and Savannah also celebrate the day with parades involving between 10,000 and 20,000 participants each.

As Irish immigrants spread out over the United States, cities developed their own traditions. One of these is Chicago's annual dyeing of the Chicago River green. The practice started in 1962, when city pollution-control workers used dyes to trace illegal sewage discharges and realized that the green dye might provide a unique way to celebrate the holiday. That year, they released 100 pounds of green vegetable dye into the river—enough to keep it green for a week! Today, in order to minimize environmental damage, only 40 pounds of dye are used, and the river turns green for only several hours.

(Continued on page 7)



# Odds & Ends Forestry News

## Congress Passes New Farm Bill, Urban Forests Fare Well

Washington, DC (February 5, 2014) - With the Senate's final approval yesterday, Congress passed a new \$956.4 billion Farm Bill, which President Obama is expected to sign on Friday. The massive 959-page bill sets policies for a broad range of agriculture, nutrition, conservation, and forestry programs for the next five years.

Good news for urban trees. The Forest Service's Urban and Community Forestry Program fared well in the compromise Farm Bill, retaining its existing legislative and funding authorities, which had been threatened in a previous House version of the bill.

## i-Tree 2014 Mobile Software Now Available

Washington, DC - The Forest Service is making it easier than ever for homeowners and urban planners to discover the economic and ecological value of their trees, with the release of the updated free mobile software tool, i-Tree 2014. For this latest version, two of i-Tree's most popular tools,

Design and Canopy, have been expanded with new features and other tools have been redesigned.

[Check out all the new features.](#)

## Old Trees Grow Faster, Store More Carbon

Corvallis, OR - In a finding that overturns the conventional view that large old trees are unproductive, scientists have determined that for most species, the biggest trees increase their growth rates and sequester more carbon as they age. This is yet another argument for preserving mature trees. [More](#)

## Iconic Joshua Tree In Race Against Extinction

LAS VEGAS (AP) — A century from now, the Mojave Desert's iconic plant could be pushing its way into new territory or teetering on the brink of extinction. This spring, a pair of researchers will go looking for clues to the Joshua tree's fate in a lonesome valley 140 miles north of Las Vegas. And they're inviting interested "citizen scientists" to join them in their search.

Some computer models predict the Joshua tree could disappear from much of the Mojave Desert, as average tempera-

tures rise and droughts grow longer and more frequent. [More.](#)

## Future Solar Cells Could Be Made From Wood Fibers

The one downside to solar technologies is what materials are used to make them. From rare earth metals to plastics, solar cells can be made from a host of not so environmentally-friendly items. In the future though, solar cells may be green energy producers and greenly produced.

Researchers from University of Maryland, the South China University of Technology, and the University of Nebraska-Lincoln have developed a new type of paper made from wood fibers that is 96 percent transparent and could ultimately replace the plastic substrates that solar cells are made on. Not only would that mean that solar cells would be more environmentally friendly, but they'd be cheaper to make and even perform better. [More.](#)



## March's Birthdays



Mark Sprague -1  
John Aldridge -2  
Charles Clolinger -2  
Brendon Blakely -4  
Thomas Nichols -5  
John Ogden -5  
Andy Redwood -8  
James Gann -11  
Victor Long -12  
Trenton Beatty -13  
William Warner -14  
Gregory Hall -15  
Michael Mellard -15  
Douglas Warren -15  
Bryant Brown -16  
Little Collums -17  
Justin Jacobs -17  
Charles Jefferson -17  
John Rhodes -17  
Marvin Mathis -19  
Braxton Perrigin -20  
James Pugh -20  
Michael Butler -21  
Larry Reed -21  
Sandra Snell -21  
Jack White -21  
Vernon Faust -22  
James Wood -22  
Vickie Frasier -25  
Jimmy Hamilton -25  
Robert Stewart -26  
Jacob Hamilton -27  
Stacy Lewis -28  
Matthew Steed -29  
Shields Matthews -30  
Richie Atkinson -31  
Jack Howard -31



## Say Hello To Our

# NEW HiRES

- ♣ Walter B. Nance, II, Forest Ranger, Leflore County, Northwest District
- ♣ John A. Roberts, Forest Ranger, Tate County, Northwest District
- ♣ Emily Goss, Emergency Telecommunicator, Lee County, Northeast District
- ♣ Tympel Turner, Northern Outreach Forester, State Office
- ♣ Benjamin Hammond, Forest Ranger, Lauderdale County, South Central District



### Leaves:

**Type:** simple, alternate, deciduous; 3 shapes - unlobed, mitten, lobed (3-5)

**Size:** 3.0" - 6.0" dia.

**Margin:** coarsely serrate

**Apex:** acute - abruptly tapered

**Base:** flattened or heart-shaped

**Shape:** oblong-ovate or semiorbicular

**Color:** dark blue-green above; paler below

**Surface:** glabrous above; pubescent below

**Venation:** palmate

### Twigs:

**Size:** slender

**Color:** gray-brown

**Surface:** smooth; scattered gray lenticels; leaf scars concave, oval to half-round; zig-zag branching

### Buds:

**Size:** terminal bud absent; laterals 0.25" long

**Shape:** void **Color:** olive-brown **Surface:** scales shiny

### Fruit and Flowers:

**Drupe:** in clusters of

"drupelets", edible, sweet

**Size:** 1.0" - 1.25" long; seeds minute

**Shape:** elongate; seeds ovoid-acute

**Color:** drupes red at first then dark purple; seeds light brown

## Tree Knowledge - Who Am I ?

**Flower:** monoecious or dioecious; unisexual; apetalous; in lax, green, hairy spikes; staminate 2.0" - 3.0" long, deeply 4-lobed calyx; pistillate 1.0"

long, 4 sepals encasing the ovary

**Bark:** light gray, smooth on young stems; becoming moderately fissured into thin, long, narrow scales

### Physical Attributes:

**Form:** single stem

**Size:** 70.0', mature

**Growth Rate:** moderate;

45.0' maximum @ 20 yrs

**Life Span:** moderate (>50 yrs)

**Tolerances:**

Shade: tolerant

Drought: medium

Fire: low

### Habitat and Ecology:

**Site:** floodplains, river valleys, and moist hillsides; prefers deep well-drained soil that is high in organic matter;

**Soil Texture:** fine - coarse

**Soil pH:** 5.0 - 7.0

**Range:** Massachusetts and southern Vermont; west through the southern half of New York to extreme southern Ontario, southern Michigan, central Wisconsin and southeastern Minnesota; south to Iowa, southeastern Nebraska, central Kansas, western Oklahoma and central Texas; east to southern Florida; also found in Bermuda; in Mississippi, throughout

### Wildlife Value and Uses:

avored food of most birds and a number of small mammals including opossum, raccoon, fox squirrel, and gray squirrel; valued for fattening hogs and as poultry food in the past

### Timber Value and Uses:

wood is of little commercial importance; used locally for fenceposts because the heartwood is relatively durable; other uses include farm implements, cooperage, furniture, interior finish, and caskets

**Landscaping Info:** limited ornamental use; fruits have been, and can be used in jellies, jams, pies, and drinks

**Other Facts:** used by several Native American tribes to treat a variety of ailments; sap to treat ringworm (Foster and Duke 2000); tea from the leaves as a treatment for dysentery, weakness, and difficulty urinating (Hamel and Chiltoskey 1975); fruit a food source for the Comanche (Carlson and Jones, 1940, Moerman 1998)

Who Am I?





# 1.38 Million Acres of Longleaf Planted



The public and private partners involved in the America's Longleaf Restoration Initiative (ALRI) accomplished an impressive 1.38 million acres of longleaf restoration work in 2013 according to a report recently released by the Longleaf Partnership Council. The 2013 Range-wide Accomplishment Report provides the first comprehensive look at the annual work that is occurring to bring back longleaf pine to the southern landscape.

"The dedicated work of public and private partners that began in earnest in the 1980s and that continues today has for the first time resulted in halting the century's long decline in longleaf pine", says Vernon Compton, Longleaf Alliance and 2013 Chair of the Longleaf Partnership Council. Over the past decade (2000-2010) trends in longleaf pine acreage increased by about 8 percent. "Maintaining this momentum requires a tremendous effort from all the involved partners in order to annually sustain the extraordinary levels of on-the-ground work needed to achieve our overall range-wide restoration goals" says Compton.

In 2013, a remarkable 1.1 million acres of prescribed burning in longleaf pine ecosystems was reported across all ownerships, with an additional 75,000 acres of mechanical and chemical treatments to improve habitat conditions in longleaf forests. The report estimates

that 156,000 acres of longleaf pine were established in 2013, with 86% of these future forests established on private lands.

The collaborative partnership continued to grow in 2013 as the number of local implementation teams increased to 15 and now cover all the identified significant geographic areas (SGAs) across the range. Approximately 70% of the overall accomplishments occurred within the SGAs, which complements the goals for these priority landscapes as envisioned in the Range-wide Conservation Plan.

All the findings and recommendations of the full report can be found [here](#).



Photo Credit: 2013 Piney Woods Project- Mississippi Forestry Association.



## Tree Knowledge - Who Am I?

February 2014 was the Eastern Baccharis (Baccharis halimifolia L). Check out page 265 in the Mississippi Trees book.



Leaf



Fruit



Bark



Flower



Twig

## More Fun Fact for St. Patrick's Day

- ♣ The very first St. Patrick's Day parade was not in Ireland. It was in Boston in 1737.
- ♣ Wearing green, eating green food and even drinking green beer, is said to commemorate St. Patrick's use of the shamrock in his teaching.
- ♣ The Irish nickname for Patrick is "Paddy". "Patty" is a woman's name, so it's never "St. Patty's Day"!
- ♣ St. Patrick's isn't a big drinking holiday in Ireland. In fact, many of the local pubs are closed for the day.
- ♣ At one time, there were more Irish living in New York City than in Dublin, Ireland.
- ♣ 12% or 36 million USA residents are of Irish ancestry.
- ♣ Many American will pinch people not wearing green on St. Patrick's Day. Tradition says wearing green make you invisible to Leprechauns, who pinch anyone they can see.

# March Is Wildfire Prevention Month

The Mississippi Forestry Commission announces, by proclamation signed by Governor Bryant, that March is wildfire prevention month in Mississippi.

"Historically, more wildfires occur in March than any other month in Mississippi," said Charlie Morgan, state forester of the Mississippi Forestry Commission. "This is due to the combination of dry leaves, grass and other vegetation; strong, gusty winds; and the increased level of outdoor activity as many property owners begin clean-up projects on their farms and woodlands."

During the month of March, the forestry commission is conducting a wildfire prevention campaign designed to raise the public's awareness to the threat of wildfire and to prevent wildfires caused by carelessness. Carelessness with debris burning is a leading cause of wildfire in Mississippi. Officials with the commission point out that wildfires burn more than trees. Houses, out buildings, farm and outdoor recrea-

tional equipment, vehicles and even lives are sometimes lost.

On average, 25 percent of the wildfires and 42 percent of the acres burned occur in the month of March. The ten year aver-

information. The commission lists counties with active bans against open outdoor burning on its Web site at [www.mfc.ms.gov](http://www.mfc.ms.gov).

The forestry commission encourages residents to protect their home from the destructive forces of wildfire. Homeowners can become "Firewise" by following these fire safety tips:

- ♣ Clear flammable vegetation up to 30 feet away from your house.
- ♣ Eliminate "ladder" fuels by mowing tall grass, trimming shrubs, and pruning lower tree branches. Ladder fuels allow a ground fire to climb up.
- ♣ Keep the lawn watered and mowed short (3 inches or less) on all sides of all buildings.
- ♣ Clean the roof, gutters and windowsills of leaves, needles and other debris.

For Fiscal Year 2013 Wildfire numbers, see page 8.



age size of a March wildfire is 20.5 acres. (For reference, one acre is about the size of a football field.) The ten year average annual wildfire activity in Mississippi is 2,829 wildfires that burn 43,364 acres.

The Mississippi Forestry Commission urges the public, especially rural property owners, to not burn outdoor debris on windy days. Check with local officials for burn ban

# Wildfire Season Is Here!!!

Timber production, farming and agriculture have a huge impact on the state's economy. Fire management is critical to improving and maintaining these resources. Prescribed burning, also known as controlled burning plays a vital part in the health of our lands. It helps to improve the growth of timber by removing non-native invasive species of grass, non-desirable understory plants, and pests that compete for water and nutrients in the soil. It also allows native grasses and forages to grow for wild animals to eat and removes fuels that could possibly create a catastrophic wildfire causing damage to the ecosystem.

Burning under certain weather conditions can greatly aid those wishing to do so. Temperature, relative humidity, and winds greatly affect a fire. Relative humidity below 25 percent and winds over ten miles per hour are not good conditions for controlled burning. Embers can often be carried long distances, causing spot fires as far as one-half mile away. It is recommended that private forest landowners consult with a certified prescribed

burn manager prior to conducting a burn. They can assist in the development of a prescribed burn plan which allows the landowner to get the most benefit out of the burn while maintaining safe working conditions.

Safety minded fire managers obtain a burn permit from the Mississippi Forestry Commission. When you call to obtain a permit, you are given the current fire weather and informed if conditions are adverse to burning. Permits are issued on a daily basis and are obtained by calling the MFC Central Dispatch Region number. Central Dispatch Region numbers can be found on our website at <http://www.mfc.ms.gov/wildfire-report.php>.

If you are obtaining a permit for yourself, please have your name, street address, phone number and the legal description of your land that you will be burning. This can be found on your deed, property taxes, or at your local courthouse. The Mississippi Forestry Commission asks for this information because that is how our firefighters find your property and the fire should anything go wrong.

If you are a forester or a prescribed burn manager, please have all of the prior information along with the property owner's name, phone number and their home address.

The number one causes of wildfires are woods arson and debris burning. The Mississippi Forestry Commission offers a reward of up to twenty-five hundred dollars upon arrest and conviction of anyone committing woods arson, which is a felony offense. Call 1-800-240-5161 if you have information regarding woods arson. If you spot a wildfire, dial 911 immediately.

Wildland fire season is here!!! On average, the Mississippi Forestry Commission responds to 2,829 wildfires that damage or destroy nearly 43,364 acres every year.

How **YOU** manage fire is very critical!



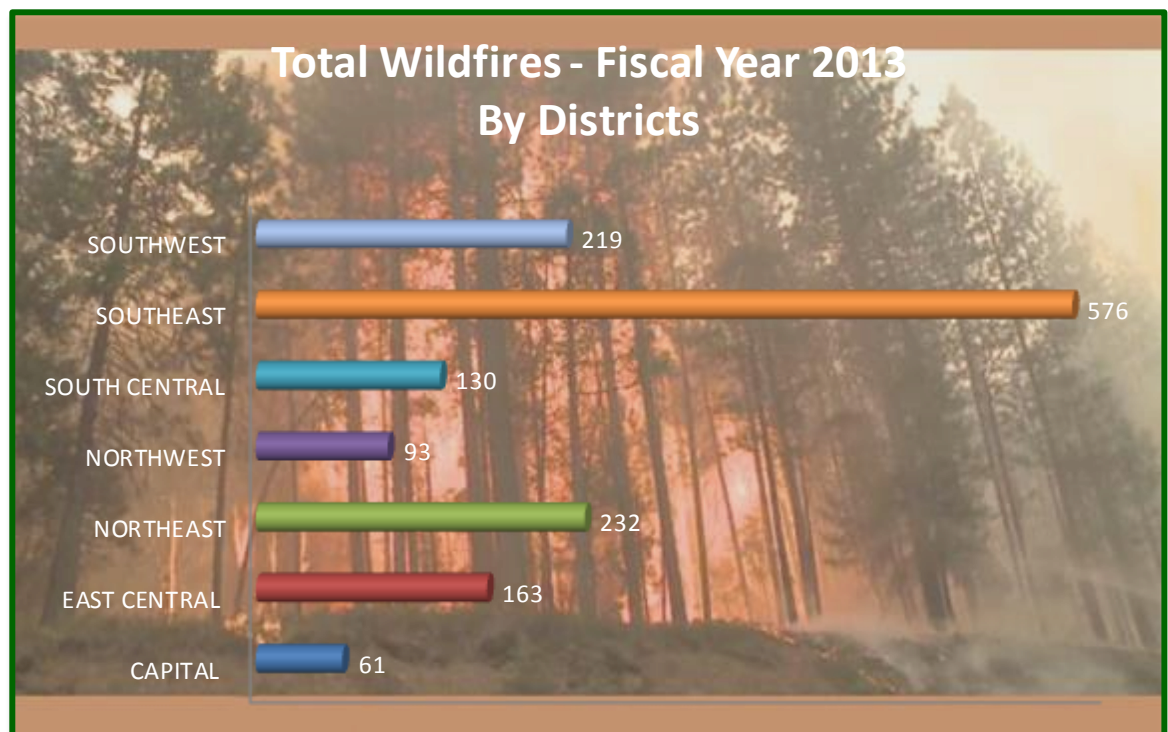
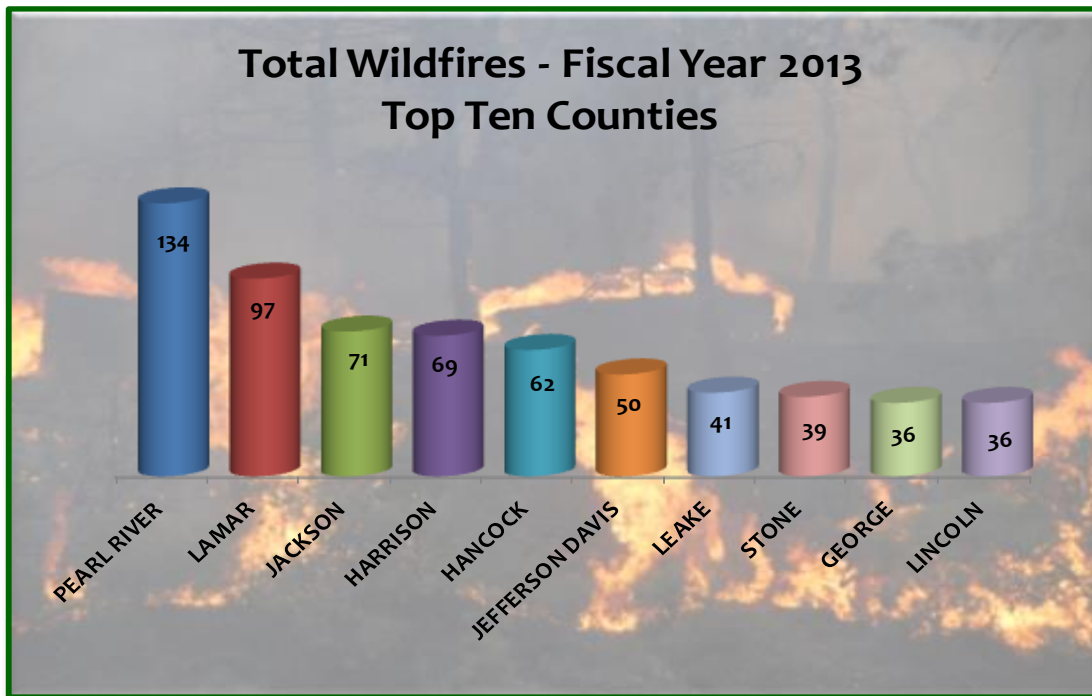
(Continued from Page 2)

Although Chicago historians claim their city's idea for a river of green was original, some natives of Savannah, Georgia (whose St. Patrick's Day parade, the oldest in the nation, dates back to 1813) believe the idea originated in their town. They point out that, in 1961, a hotel restaurant manager named Tom Woolley convinced city officials to dye Savannah's river green. The experiment didn't exactly work as planned, and the water only took on a slight greenish hue. Savannah never attempted to dye its river again, but Woolley maintains (though others refute the claim) that he personally suggested the idea to Chicago's Mayor Richard J. Daley.

Today, people of all backgrounds celebrate St. Patrick's Day, especially throughout the United States, Canada and Australia. Although North America is home to the largest productions, St. Patrick's Day is celebrated in many other locations far from Ireland, including Japan, Singapore and Russia.



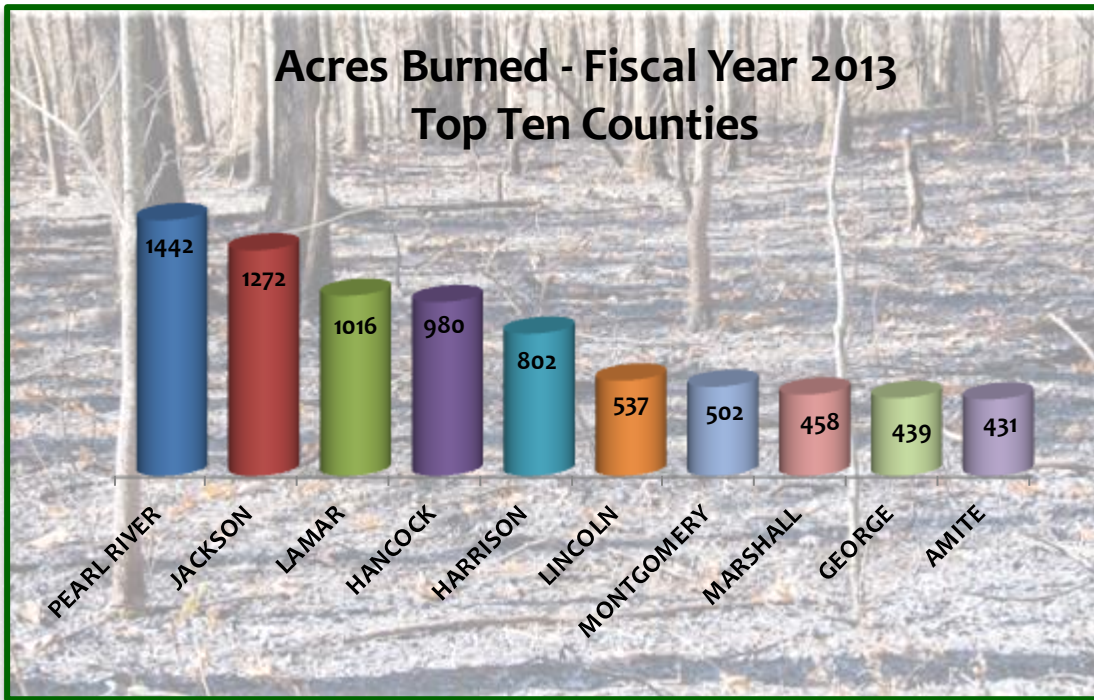
## 2013 Mississippi Wildfire Numbers



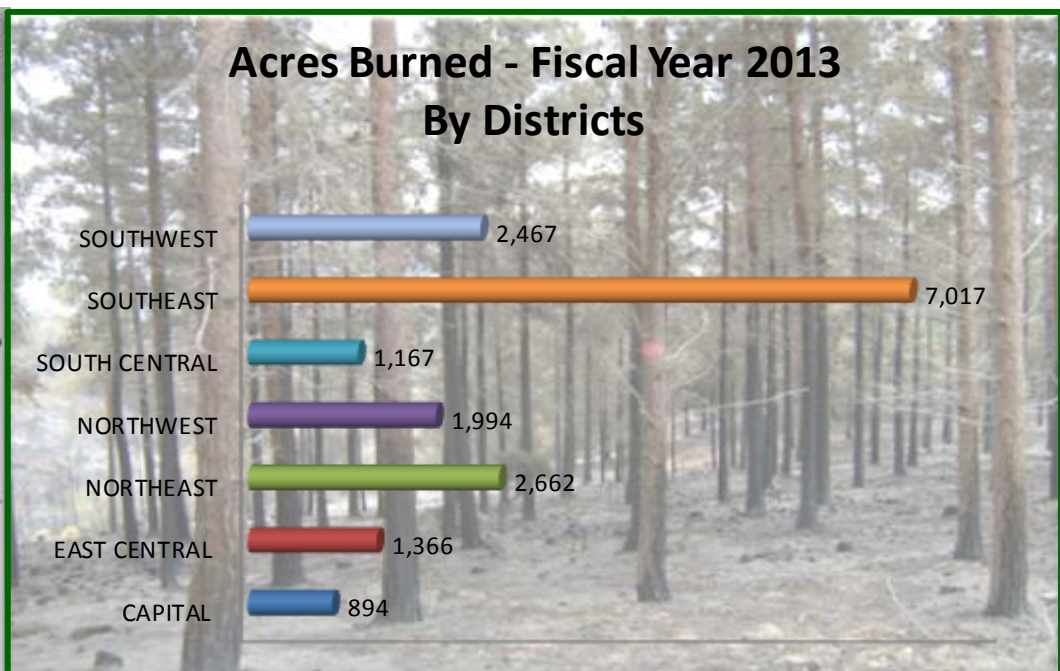
This data (Mississippi Wildfire Numbers for Fiscal Year 2013) reflects wildfires suppressed by the Mississippi Forestry Commission. This data does not include any wildfires responded to by volunteer fire departments.  
Source: MFC Daily Fire Report



## Acres Burned - Fiscal Year 2013 Top Ten Counties



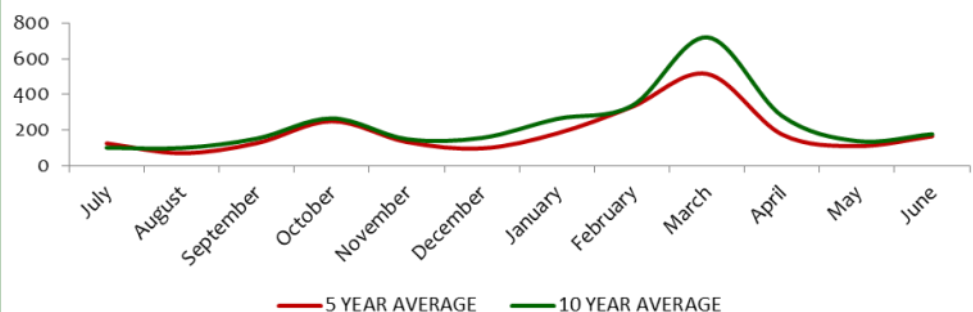
## Acres Burned - Fiscal Year 2013 By Districts



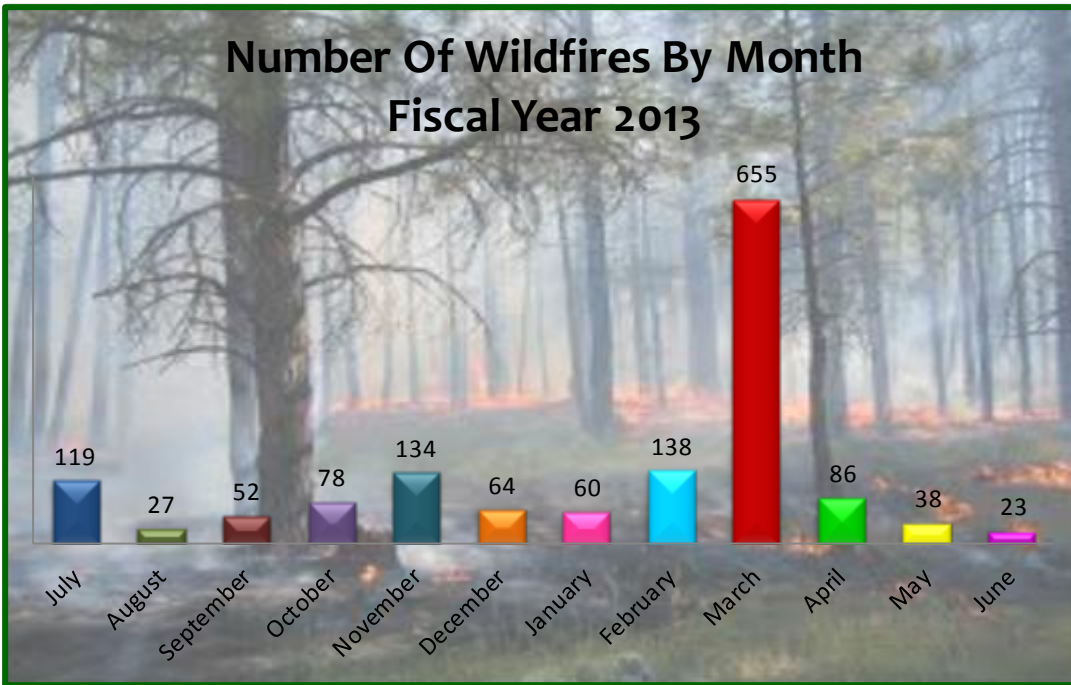
**GET YOUR SMOKEY ON**  
ONLY YOU CAN PREVENT WILDFIRES.  
[LEARN HOW »](#)



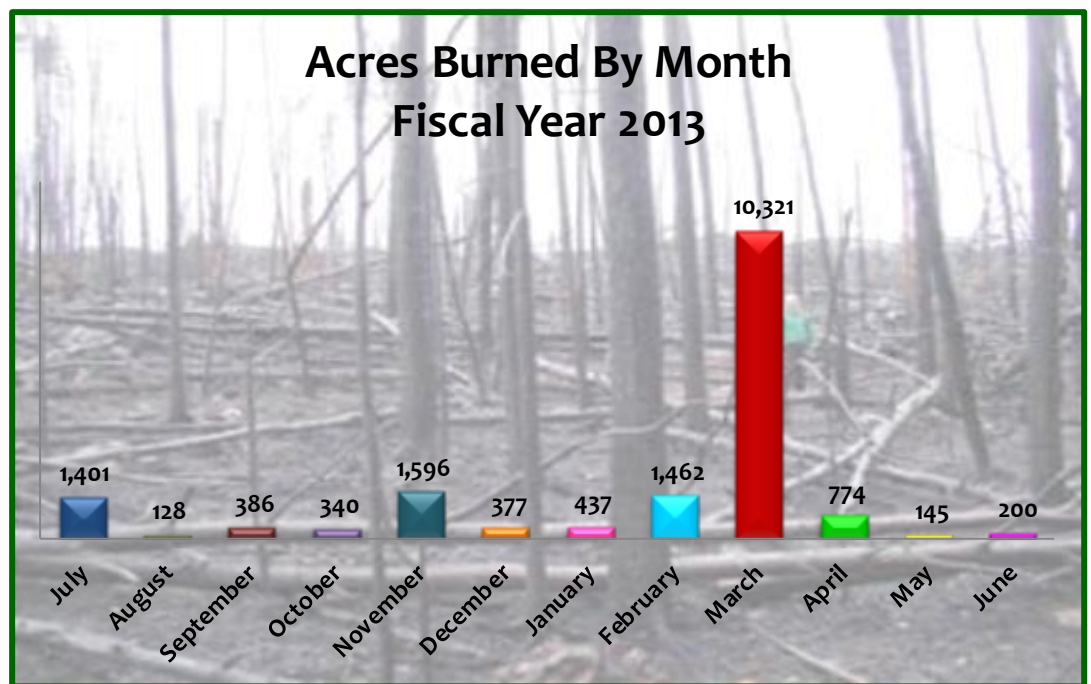
## Average Number Of Wildfires FY 2009-2013



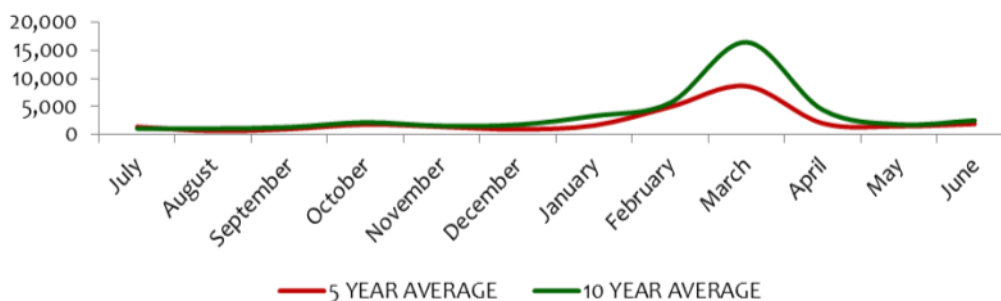
## Number Of Wildfires By Month Fiscal Year 2013



## Acres Burned By Month Fiscal Year 2013



## Average Acres Burned FY 2009-2013





## Fire Cause Categories

Wildfires are classified according to the ignition source or to the general human related activity, which started the fire. The following categories are used to describe various causes:

- ♣ **Lightning** - Any wildfire started as a result of lightning activity. Lightning occurrence maps are a significant tool to be utilized in suspected lightning caused fires.
- ♣ **Campfire** - Any fire kindled for warmth, cooking, light, religious or ceremonial purpose. Camp fires may occur at any location. Responsible parties may be hunters, campers, fisherman or hikers.
- ♣ **Smoking** - Wildfires caused by smoking activities or accoutrements, including matches, cigarettes, cigars, pipes, etc.
- ♣ **Debris Burning** - Wildfires caused by fires started for purposes of burning slash, garbage, stubble, right-of-way, or other controlled burning.
- ♣ **Incendiary (Arson)** - Wildfires deliberately and/or maliciously set with the intent to damage or defraud. Refer to your jurisdiction's legal definition of arson.
- ♣ **Equipment Use** - Wildfires resulting from the operation of mechanical equipment excluding railroads. Types of mechanical equipment range from heavy construction to small portable engines.

Wildfire By Causes By District  
Fiscal Year 2013

Cause	C	EC	NE	NW	SC	SE	SW	Total
Incendiary	16	63	102	43	41	323	92	680
Debris Burning	33	81	82	35	73	180	100	584
Miscellaneous	6	11	24	9	8	56	19	133
Equipment Use	1	0	7	5	6	6	2	27
Lightning	1	7	10	1	1	3	2	25
Smoking	1	0	2	0	0	1	3	7
Campfire	1	0	3	0	0	3	0	7
Children	0	0	2	0	0	4	1	7
Railroad	2	1	0	0	1	0	0	4
<b>Total</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>163</b>	<b>232</b>	<b>93</b>	<b>130</b>	<b>576</b>	<b>92</b>	<b>1,474</b>

Acres Burned By Causes By District  
Fiscal Year 2013

Cause	C	EC	NE	NW	SC	SE	SW	Total
Incendiary	301	466	1270	1063	438	4348	1239	9125
Debris Burning	296	512	846	738	656	1469	1161	5678
Miscellaneous	278	73	266	158	30	967	56	1828
Lightning	6	222	180	2	15	51	2	478
Equipment Use	1	0	54	33	26	105	3	222
Railroad	7	93	0	0	2	0	0	102
Children	0	0	9	0	0	69	1	79
Smoking	1	0	31	0	0	2	5	39
Campfire	4	0	6	0	0	6	0	16
<b>Total</b>	<b>894</b>	<b>1366</b>	<b>2662</b>	<b>1994</b>	<b>1167</b>	<b>7017</b>	<b>1239</b>	<b>17567</b>

- ♣ **Railroad** - Wildfires caused by any rail road operations, personnel, or rolling stock. Can include track and right-of-way maintenance.
- ♣ **Children** - Wildfires started by persons 12 years of age or younger. May be motivated by normal curiosity and use fire in experimental or play fashion. Matches or lighters are the most frequent ignition source. Often involves multiple children.
- ♣ **Miscellaneous** - Wildfires that cannot be properly classified under other standard causes. Some of these are listed below:
  - Power Lines
  - Fireworks
  - Cutting, welding, and grinding
  - Firearms use
  - Blasting
  - Structures
  - Glass refraction/magnification
  - Spontaneous combustion
  - Flare stack/pit fires



## Stone County Man Charged With Woods Arson



### Stone County Man Charged With Woods Arson

Mississippi Forestry Commission, Wiggins, MS -- Hal Benton Broadus, age 28 of McHenry, MS in Stone County has been arrested and charged with multiple counts of felony woods arson MS Code 97-17-13. Broadus has been charged with three separate woods fires; two in Stone County and one in Harrison County. The fire in Harrison County burned approximately thirty acres and threatened several homes.

In Mississippi, a person convicted for felony woods arson is sentenced to the state penitentiary for not more than two years, nor less than one year, or can be fined not less than \$200, nor more than \$1,000, or both at the discretion of the court.

The Forestry Commission asks that anyone with information on any woods fire, or any suspicious behavior in regards to a woods fire, call the Woods Arson Hotline at 1-800-240-5161. Information leading to the arrest and conviction of a woods arsonist can be rewarded up to \$2,500.

## Mississippi Man Accused In Timber Theft



LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF  
AGRICULTURE & FORESTRY



### Mississippi Man Accused in Timber Theft

**Baton Rouge, La.** (February 19, 2014) – A man from Pica-yune, Mississippi is accused of not paying three different landowners for timber investigators say he cut near Mount Hermon, La.

Sixty-year-old Donald Ray Berry was arrested in Bogalusa, La. Monday, Feb. 17 by investigators with the Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry (LDAF). Berry is the owner/operator of Hospitality Logging.

Investigators say this arrest comes on the heels of a two month long investigation conducted after three separate Washington Parish landowners filed complaints against Berry. Between June and November 2013, Berry allegedly cut timber for these separate landowners and failed to remit full payment for forest products as required by law. Berry entered into agreements with the landowners to harvest a total of 36 acres of marketable timber from property owned by the victims.

"At the conclusion of the timber harvest, each landowner says they realized that they were owed additional payments from Berry. Efforts to settle these complaints with Berry were unsuccessful," said LDAF Commissioner Mike Strain, D.V.M. From Louisiana Department of Agriculture & Forestry.

Berry is charged with three counts of failure to remit payment to owners for timber. Investigators say the landowners are owed \$550, \$1,539.86 and \$5,521.30. Berry was booked into the Washington Parish Jail. His bond is set at \$15,000.





## ASU To Host 2014 Small Farmers Conference

The 23rd annual Alcorn State University Extension Program (ASUEP) Small Farmers Conference, slated for March 24-26, 2014, will be held at the Jackson Convention Complex, 105 E. Pascagoula St., Jackson, Miss. "Using Smarter Innovations to Strengthen Agriculture" is this year's conference theme. The event is co-sponsored by ASUEP and the Mississippi Association of Cooperatives (MAC).

"We look forward to the conference as our greatest networking opportunity that brings together a diverse group of small farmers, ranchers, landowners and women with business ideas," stated Myra Draggs, executive director of MAC and con-

ference co-chair. "This event has a great impact on the lives of its participants. Over the years, we have seen past attendees start businesses as a result of the information and encouragement received during the conference. This year, we look to further enhance opportunities for our participants to obtain knowledge and engage in collaborations."

A highlight of the conference will be the observance of the 100th Year Anniversary of the Cooperative Extension System. Other highlights will include learning site tour, a "Let's Talk" Forum of state and federal agency personnel and farmers and ranchers, as well as several vendors and exhibitors showcasing their

products

To register for the conference, please visit [www.smallfarmersconference.org](http://www.smallfarmersconference.org) or contact ASUEP at (601) 877-6128 or call toll-free (877) 427-9536..

Scholarships will be available for small farmers, ranchers and women in business on first come first served basis until February 28, 2014. First consideration will be given to participants residing outside of 40-mile radius of Jackson. For information on scholarships, please contact Savannah Jackson, at the MAC office, at (601) 354-2750.

## 2014 Arbor Day Poster Contest

**"ARBOR DAY -  
LOVE TREES!"**

**2014 ARBOR DAY  
POSTER/PHOTO  
CONTEST**



We invite 4th to 6th grade students to participate in the 28<sup>th</sup> Arbor Day/Earth Day Poster Contest. The contest is a fun and valuable way to learn about trees. This year the

statewide contest theme was changed due to the fun fact that Arbor Day is also on February 14<sup>th</sup>, Valentine's Day. You may select any educational material of your choice.

There will be prizes given for 1st, 2nd and 3rd place. Deadline to enter is April 30, 2014.

For more information, visit the Mis-

issippi Urban Forest Council website at [www.msurbanforest.com](http://www.msurbanforest.com) or contact Donna Yowell at [dyowell@aol.com](mailto:dyowell@aol.com)





## Mississippi Firewise Workshops

Firewise workshops are **FREE** events, however, **pre-registration is required**. Meals, refreshments and workshop materials will be provided. Firewise workshop and/or field days are a one-day event, bringing together citizens, business, and community leaders involved in planning, financing, building, sustaining, and protecting communities in the wildland/urban interface. This will be a learning experience and participants will learn about why homes burn, various wildland fuel reduction techniques, and how to assess the fire danger of their own home.

- ♣ **Tippah County** - The Mississippi Forestry Commission, Tippah County Soil & Water Conservation District and the North Central MS Resource Conservation & Development Council are sponsoring a How To Have A Firewise Home event on **March 4, 2014** at the Tippah County Fairgrounds (Program Hall Building), Ripley, MS. Pre-registration is needed by March 3, 2014 to get a head count for the meal. Please call (662) 837-4465 Ext. 3 or stop by the USDA Service Center-NRCS Office at 733B South Line Street, Ripley, Mississippi for more information. [Click here](#) for a Introduction Letter, Agenda and Pre- registration form.
- ♣ **Wayne County** - The Mississippi Forestry Commission and Southeast RC&D are sponsoring a How To Have A Firewise Home event on **March 13, 2014** at the Maynor Creek Lodge, Maynor Creek Water Park, Waynesboro, MS. Please contact Lenora Haynes at (601) 307-6728. [Click here](#) for a introduction letter, program agenda and pre-reregistration letter.

The above Firewise events are approximately half a day in length and covers the basics principles of Firewise in Mississippi. The following CFE/CEU/CLE are given for these events: Registered Forester, 2 hrs of category II; Certified Loggers, 2 hrs of category II; Realtors, 3 hrs Elective Real Estate Course, Approval Code 10181; Structural Firefighter, Certificate of Attendance, 2 hrs; credit is not available for Teachers and Professional Disciplines.

For more information on Firewise in Mississippi, contact Opie Blackwell at [lblackwell@mfc.state.ms.us](mailto:lblackwell@mfc.state.ms.us).

### Jeff Davis CFA Draw Down

The Jefferson Davis County Forestry Association is hosting a "Draw Down" for the Anthony and Holli Stuart family. The Stuarts, JDCFA members, suffered a significant loss when equipment belonging to their company, Stuart Timber, Inc., was destroyed in an act of vandalism. This incident was an emotional and financial blow to Anthony and Holli. It is still unknown who may have committed this terrible act or what their motives may have been.

The Draw Down will begin at 6:30 p.m. and will be held at the M.G. Dyess Convention Center in Bassfield, MS on March 25, 2014. The Grand Prize is \$5000. The holder of the winning ticket does not need to be present to win. Tickets are \$100 each and are available by calling 601-792-5121.





## 5th Grade Forestry Program in George County

*Submitted by Meacham Harlow, MFC Southern Outreach Officer.*

A forestry program for all the 5<sup>th</sup> grade students in the George County Schools was held on February 5 & 6, 2014 in honor of Arbor Day. This was a joint effort of the MS Forestry Commission, Mississippi State University Extension Service and the George County Education Foundation. Speakers

at the program were Meacham Harlow and Eugene Cooper with MS Forestry Commission and Quana Grace with MSU-Extension Service George County 4-H/FCS Agent. Mr. Cooper and Ms. Harlow explained to the students how to plant their loblolly pine trees. Ms. Grace explained to the youth about 4-H and the different 4-H clubs they could be in. All 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Students were given a book

"Who was Johnny Appleseed?" that was donated by American Tank & Vessel, Inc. through a partnership with the Greater George County Education Foundation and Give-A-Book. The youth were able to name many products that trees provide us with and products we use every day. The students were given loblolly pine trees that were donated by Plum Creek Nursery to take home and plant.



Antioch Christian Academy  
Back Row left to right:  
Quana Grace, 4-H/FCS;  
Michaela Marriner, Isabella  
Jones, Hannah Box, Julia  
Bass, Jonah Littlefield,  
Jackson Holland, Meacham  
Harlow, MS Forestry

Front Row Left to right:  
Leeann McKissick, Moriah  
McKissick, Sydney Hender-  
son, Blake Mason, Amelia  
Quinn, Kate Howard, Jakon  
McLeod





## 2014 Teachers Conservation Workshops

MFA is now accepting registrations for the 2014 Teachers Conservation Workshops set for Jones County Junior College, June 8 - 13, and Northeast Mississippi Community College, June 22 - 27. This year will be the 51st year for these MFA-sponsored workshops. During the week educators are exposed to classroom instruction and activities, new educational materials, and numerous field trips including industries, harvesting operations, management practices, and nature trails. Participants learn by demonstration and practical exercises how relevant conservation practices can be integrated into classroom work and student projects. Participants also become certified in Project Learning Tree.



Please return [registration form](#) and fee to MFA, 620 N. State Street, Suite 201, Jackson, MS 39202. Questions? Email [epope@msforestry.net](mailto:epope@msforestry.net).



## WCSHC 7th Youth Conference



By Jen Sellers

On January 24, 2014, Winston County Self Help Cooperative held their 7th Annual Youth Conference. This event was held at the Louisville Coliseum. The four-year-old classes from Winston County Head Start and the 2nd graders from Fair Elementary, participants

of the FoodCorps Mississippi Program, sponsored by Winston County Self Help Cooperative, were able to participate and enjoy the activities that were coordinated by the Co-op Youth Director Ms. Jean Harper.

Jen Sellers is a FoodCorps Mississippi service member who also works with Winston County Self Help Cooperative to help organize lesson plans and activities that involve teaching children about healthy food, engages children in growing school vegetable gardens, and helps connect farmers with the Louisville Public Schools System to help get more local produce into the cafeterias. This falls in line with farm-to-school initiatives across the country.

The mission of the youth conference was connecting kids with agriculture and helping them live healthy lifestyles. Activities included: fruit and vegetable identification,

storytelling, fire safety, agriculture and plant science, Rethink Your Drink, a fitness activity, music art, information on youth diabetes, MSU Department of Health, and My Friend the Forester. It is an important mission of WCSHC to get children interested in farming so we can raise future farmers to Save Rural America.



Bill Kitchings MFC Outreach Forester



# MS Premier Fishing, Hunting & Boat Show



**Bob DelGiorno**  
34 Years of Show Experience

**HATTIESBURG - GULF COAST - JACKSON**

**March 7 - 9, 2014**



# Mississippi SPORTSMEN'S SHOW

**Forrest County Multi Purpose Center, Hattiesburg, MS**



Enter your dog in the competition  
Register [Here](#)



**Southern AgCredit  
Bass Fishing Seminars**

Friday, March 7th    Noon - 7 PM    Admission  
Saturday, March 8th    9 AM - 7 PM    \$8 Adult  
Sunday, March 9th    10 AM - 5 PM    \$5 Children under 12

962 Sullivan Road, Hattiesburg Ms 39401

**Friday all Kids Free!**



## Forestry Day With Boy Scouts

*Submitted by Stephen Dicke, MSU Extension*

A Forestry Day was held February 8, 2014 at the Warren Hood Boy Scout Reservation outside of Hazlehurst, MS. A total of 184 Boy Scouts, Cub Scouts and Scout Leaders participated in the day-long event. The Forestry Merit Badge was earned by 102 Boy Scouts and 25 Webelos earned the Forestry Activity Pin. Forestry Day has become an important annual event and the Andrew Jackson Council BSA is already planning a great program next year.



St. Patrick's Day is an enchanted time - a day to begin transforming winter's dreams into summer's magic. ~Adrienne Cook

# Safety First . . .

## Staph Infection

### Case Study

A Task Force Leader Trainee (TFLD-T) on the structure division noticed a small bump/sore on his forehead—that was located in his hardhat sweatband area. With each day, it got worse. The Safety Officer (SOF2) strongly recommended he see the medical unit on returning to ICP. The medical unit suspected an infection and referred the TFLD-T to the local Emergency Room, where he was diagnosed with a staph infection.

The lesion was lanced. He was given oral antibiotics and referred to see an Ear, Nose and Throat specialist the next day.

The following morning, the TFLD-T's entire face was severely swollen. He could barely open his eyes. He went to the specialist's office but the doctor was in surgery. That office referred him back to the ER.

The ER doctor decided to admit the TFLD-T for an aggressive course of intravenous antibiotics. Once the specialist examined the TFLD-T, he decided to schedule surgery—to clean out the infection—for the following day. Due to the location of the infection—head/face, facial bones, sinuses, etc., and potential for complications—the specialist decided he needed to continue aggressive treatment.

The TFLD-T underwent surgery the following day and continued on intravenous antibiotics in the hospi-

tal. The strain of his staph infection could not be determined from a culture. After four days and nights in the hospital, he was released on the fifth day and sent home with two broad-spectrum antibiotics. Before being released from the hospital, he was given a full CT scan to ensure that the infection hadn't spread anywhere else. It hadn't.

### Lessons Learned

- ♣ The TFLD-T had been wearing the same hardhat for some time. Its blue terry sweatband was pretty dirty.
- ♣ The medical professionals said the hardhat's sweatband was most likely a contributing factor in this incident.
- ♣ Hardhats should be inspected not only for cracks and stress but also to see if the sweatband needs to be replaced.
- ♣ Sweatbands can be easily replaced and probably should be yearly, if not sooner.

### More On Staph Infection

There are several different types of staph infections, ranging from mild skin infections to serious infections affecting the lungs, blood, bone and other parts of the body. In some cases, staph bacteria can release toxins that causes illness. These types of toxins can cause toxic shock syndrome, food poisoning and scalded skin syndrome.

The most common part of the body infected by *Staphylococcus* is the

skin. Staph infections that affect the skin include: Boils, Folliculitis (an infection of the hair follicles), carbuncles and impetigo (occurs mostly in children between the ages of two and five).

### Steps To Prevent Staph Infection:

- ♣ Regularly wash your hands with soap and water.
- ♣ Keep clothes and towels clean, especially with regard to athletic gear. No storing those socks in the locker until they stand up by themselves. That's a staph infection waiting to happen.
- ♣ Don't share personal supplies such as towels, soap, makeup, and hair products.
- ♣ Clean and cover scrape or open sores of any kind.
- ♣ Wipe down any equipment used, especially where it is used in a setting with other people.



*Is it time you cleaned—or replaced—your sweatband?*

*First Time, Every Time*